

E.W. MARLAND ESTATE NO. 2
(The Villa)
901 Monument Road
Ponca City
Kay
Oklahoma

HALS OK-13
OK-13

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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E.W. MARLAND ESTATE #2 (THE VILLA)

HALS NO. OK-13

Location: 901 Monument Road, Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma
Lat: 36.71448 Long: -97.06115

Significance: The second Marland Estate (The Villa), was constructed from 1925 to 1928, and was the home of Oklahoma's 10th Governor, United States Congressman, oil baron, and founder of Marland Oil Company. It was built from wealth created in Oklahoma by oil during the flamboyant 1920s. It is a product of the Eclectic Period and combines Italian Renaissance architecture with traditional Japanese garden design. Today, listed as a National Historic Landmark and owned by the City of Ponca City, the estate serves as an important cultural center and landmark and houses the Bryant Baker Gallery, Marland Oil Museum, Marland Family Exhibit, and the John Duncan Forsythe Room.

History: The second mansion in Ponca City built by oil magnate E.W. Marland was originally situated on a 2500 acre site that included a game preserve, a golf course, five lakes, an art gallery and studios, polo grounds, and an Olympic sized swimming pool. The mansion itself, over 43,000 square feet, consisted of 55 rooms, and was of the Italian Renaissance style. It was designed by John Duncan Forsythe and modeled after the Davanzatti Palace in Florence, Italy. The mansion is surrounded by formal floral and botanical gardens designed by Japanese gardener, Henry Hatashita. Originally, the formal gardens stretched for nearly a mile.

At the time of construction, the estimated cost of building the estate was \$5.5 million, which was derived from money made by oil during the 1920s. The Marlands lost most of their fortune during the Great Depression and sold the estate in 1941 to the Carmelite Fathers. Seven years later the estate exchanged owners again when it was sold to the Felician Sister of St. Felix, who added buildings to the site before selling it to the City of Ponca City in 1975. Today, the 30 acre site has been restored to its 1920's and 1930's condition and houses several museums and galleries that tell the Marland family story and showcase the opulence created by oil in Oklahoma during the first few decades of the Twentieth Century.

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View of Marland Mansion (National Register Properties in Oklahoma website:
<http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/shpopic.asp?id=73001561>, accessed March 21, 2009).



View from a guest bedroom on the 2nd floor, overlooking formal gardens and hedges
sheared into an M initial with a statue of Mr. Marland in the center (Steve Eilers, 2009).